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1. The proposed Hughes amendment to S. 3394 (Foreign Assistance Authorization bill) would require the President to report to the appropriate committees of Congress any decision to undertake covert action. The Agency presently reports to the Congressionally-designated CIA oversight committees on all its activities, including covert action operations. This provision then would not in practice alter the information received by the oversight committees, but would impose a statutory requirement upon the President.

2. It has been reported that in addition to the four regular congressional oversight committees, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and CIA Director William Colby have agreed to provide similar information to the House Foreign Affairs Committee of CIA covert activities (attached).

3. This amendment may impinge upon the constitutional powers of the President to the extent that it affects his unshared responsibility for the conduct of foreign relations.

4. The House of Representatives on 24 September 1974 rejected an amendment to continuing appropriations resolution which would have terminated covert action (attached).

5. Important matters should be subject to careful deliberation and not decided in a few minutes on the floor. The Armed Services Committees have legislative jurisdiction over CIA.

6. The amendment appears to authorize covert operations only if they are "vital to the national defense" which could be interpreted to mean vital to the territorial defense of the country. Broader language such as "vital to the national security," or "vital to the interests of the United States," would be preferable.